

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04192 021617Z

13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 SWF-02 EB-12 AGR-20 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03 DRC-01

IGA-02 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 /170 W

----- 101842

R 012216Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8203

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, SWEL, HO

SUBJ: COPEN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4144

1. THE PERMANENT NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (COPEN) GAVE A

PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 30 TO INFORM THE MEDIA OF COPEN'S

RELIEF ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO TIEMPO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF  
COPEN ISSUED SHORT STATEMENTS WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. THE PRESIDENT OF COPEN, COLONEL JOSE DE LA CRUZ HERNANDEZ

SAID THAT THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PND) WILL HAVE TO  
AWAIT THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY HURRICANE  
FIFI. HERNANDEZ RESPONDED TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 04192 021617Z

CONCERNING MISAPPROPRIATED SUPPLIES BY PROMISING SWIFT AND  
SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

3. FORMER GOH AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., ROBERTO GALVEZ BARNES, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED TO COORDINATE INCOMING AID, COMMENTED THAT ONLY A COORDINATED EFFORT, AVOIDING DUPLICATION, COULD SOLVE THE CURRENT MASSIVE PROBLEMS. HE APPLAUDED THE HELP PROVIDED BY THE OAS IN BRINGING ORDER TO THE CHAOS OF THE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. FINALLY, GALVEZ SAID THAT THE GREATEST CURRENT PROBLEM STANDING IN THE WAY OF RAPID DISTRIBUTION OF

RELIEF SUPPLIES IS A LACK OF CLASSIFICATION. FEW INCOMING SHIPMENTS ARE PROPERLY LABELLED OR CLASSIFIED AND MUCH VALUABLE TIME IS LOST IN CATALOGUING GOODS PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION.

4. MARIO RIETTI, SERVING AS THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SPOKESMAN ON COPEN, ESTIMATED THAT TOTAL LOSSES WILL EXCEED \$500 MILLION. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT 30-40,000 WORKERS ARE NOW UNEMPLOYED BECAUSE OF THE HURRICANE DAMAGE.

5. VICTOR ARTILES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF HONDURAS' LARGEST TRADE UNION FEDERATION (CTH), SPOKE OUT IN FAVOR OF THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND CAMPESINOS. HE URGED THAT THE GOH CARRY OUT A MASSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM THAT WILL IMMEDIATELY ALLOW THE CAMPESINOS TO BEGIN PLANTING.

6. RIGOBERTO ALVARADO, SUB-SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMENTED THAT THE GOH IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN THAT HAD BEEN UNDER WAY IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THE HURRICANE IS THE MAIN

REASON NO EPIDEMICS HAVE BROKEN OUT. HE ADDED THAT THE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF EPIDEMICS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, STORMS, COMMITTEES, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740279-0480  
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**Line Count:** 94  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Reference:** TEGUCIGALPA 4144  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COPEN PRESS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** ECON, SWEL, HO, COPEN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005